

RESOLUTION NO. 7155**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA,
DESIGNATING THE WHITNEY R. SMITH HOUSE AND STUDIO
AT 209 BEACON AVENUE A CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDMARK
(LANDMARK NO. 52)**

WHEREAS, Section 2.62 of the South Pasadena Municipal Code, Ordinance No. 2004 ("Cultural Heritage Ordinance"), authorized the Cultural Heritage Commission ("the Commission") to recommend to the City Council the designation of appropriate properties as landmarks; and

WHEREAS, a landmark nomination form and report ("the nomination") was prepared by architectural historian and preservation consultant, Deborah Howell-Ardila and has been submitted to the Commission for consideration of the Whitney R. Smith House and Studio located at 209 Beacon Avenue ("the property") as a local landmark; and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2011, the Commission reviewed the nomination and initiated the landmark designation process; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has complied with the applicable provisions of Subsection (a) (3) "Designation Procedure" of the above Ordinance Section in that it visited the site, attempted diligently and in good faith to meet with the property owner, mailed notices, held a duly noticed public hearing, and received public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Commission found that the research and documentation contained in the nomination amply demonstrate the qualifications of the property to be a designated landmark; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2011, the Commission held a public hearing and voted to forwarded its recommendation to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2011, the City Council held a public hearing on the proposed designation and received public testimony.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council considered the designation criteria contained in the Cultural Heritage Ordinance and makes the following findings:

1. ***The City Council finds that this resource is identified with a person whose work has influenced the heritage of the city, the State of California and the United States;***

During a career spanning more than five decades, Whitney R. Smith designed dozens of commissions throughout Southern California, for which he earned numerous local and national awards and mentions. Several projects illustrate particularly well Smith's career-long objective of combining modern design, meticulous craftsmanship, planning (on the level of the neighborhood as well as the site), and landscape architecture in all projects, regardless of scale or budget. By the early 1940s and throughout the post World War II era, Smith's many commissions were widely published and praised in national architectural periodicals as well as shelter magazines, including: *Arts and Architecture*, *Progressive Architecture*, *Architectural Record*, *Architectural Forum*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sunset Magazine*, *House and Garden*, *Better Homes and Gardens*.

Smith's commissions through the years reflects the significance of his contribution to the emergence of Southern Californian modernism including: the Unitarian Church in Pasadena, civic centers in Santa Ana and Buena Park, the San Luis Obispo Mission Plaza, the North Campus Student Union and Canyon Recreation Center at UCLA, Westridge School in Pasadena, the Central Power Building at the California Institute of Technology, tract housing in Reseda, the Mutual Housing Cooperative in Crestwood Hills, as well as many other commercial, civic, educational, and industrial commissions, and numerous residential projects, from the well-designed Minimum House, tailored to the restraints of a small urban lot, to large-scale custom-made homes.

2. ***The City Council finds that this resource is identified as the work of a person or persons whose work has influenced the heritage of the city, the state and the United States;***

Whitney R. Smith applied the same design principles he used in all of his projects, and are reflected in his residence and studio at 209 Beacon Avenue consisting of: quality materials, simply treated; exquisite craftsmanship and detailing; integration with the outdoors and site-specific planning; total design, including planning and landscaping; and a unique interpretation of the modern design, filtered through regional identity and precedent.

3. ***The City Council finds that this resource is the embodiment of elements of outstanding attention to architectural design, engineering, detail design, materials and craftsmanship.***

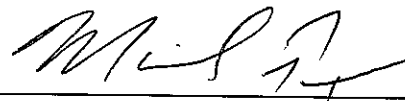
The Whitney R. Smith Residence and Studio represent outstanding and historically significant examples of Mid-Century Modernism in South Pasadena. Part of this movement, as seen in the Smith Residence, included the use of an open plan, designed specifically for the "servantless" family; expandability, as the family and its budget grew; complete integration with and focus toward the outdoors; and aesthetic effect achieved through the use of good, simply treated materials and a high level of attention to detail and craftsmanship. 209 Beacon Avenue reflects Smith's innovative proposal for integrating home and garden, a central concern for modern American architects in the postwar period.

Smith also served as the home's contractor, and the quality of his craftsmanship is apparent in features such as the butted-glass windows marking the north and south corners of the façade, as well as the seamlessness of the broad fascia and wide overhanging eaves that are the focal point of the façade design. The ingenuity of Smith's design is further reflected in the livability and expansiveness of the residence, whose narrow urban lot, measuring 63 by 122 feet, was occupied only by converted garage when Smith purchased it in 1936. In addition to its significance as an outstanding example of Mid-Century Modern design, the Smith Residence reflects a distinct era in postwar American architectural history, during which modern architects were actively engaged in re-defining notions of the ideal contemporary home.

SECTION 2. Based on the evidence presented in the Staff Report, Minutes, other record of proceeding, and its findings herein, the City Council hereby approves the designation of the "Whitney R. Smith House and Studio" at 209 Beacon Avenue as official Historic Landmark Number 52.

SECTION 3. The City Council directs the City Clerk to file the appropriate designation with the office of the Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON this 20th day of April, 2011.



Mike Ten, Mayor

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ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sally Kilby, City Clerk



Richard L. Adams II, City Attorney

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of South Pasadena at a regular meeting held on the 20th day of April, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Cacciotti, Putnam, Schneider, Sifuentes and Mayor Ten

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None



Sally Kilby, City Clerk